

*For Immediate Release*

## IDOC Teams Compete in FedEx Plane Pull Challenge

Indianapolis, Indiana (August 24, 2009)—Three teams from the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) recently participated in the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge 2009 at the old Indianapolis Airport on Saturday, August 15.

The challenge pits teams of up to 20 people in a tug-of-war competition against a FedEx Boeing 727 jet weighing more than 147,000 pounds. The teams had to pull the jet a distance of 12 feet in the least amount of time. Westville Correctional Facility's team recorded the fastest time of any team at 5.33 seconds. Miami Correctional Facility's team came in third place in the public safety division at 6.237 seconds. The Plainfield Correctional Complex E-Squad placed seventh in the public safety division.



Members of the Miami Correctional Facility team pull the airplane in the challenge.

The event was held to raise money for the Special Olympics of Indiana. Miami Correctional Facility's team raised \$2,090, Plainfield Complex E-Squad raised \$1,876.50, and Westville Correctional Facility's team raised \$1,000.

In addition, 20 members of New Castle Correctional Facility's SERT Team placed second in the Public Safety division and raised \$2,733. New Castle Correctional Facility is operated by the Geo Group, Inc.

"This event truly showcases how friendly competition can benefit a worthy cause. I am proud of the IDOC teams that participated, and I commend their willingness to give back to the community," said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

Plane Pull History:

Trademarked as a fundraising event unique to Special Olympics programs throughout the United States, the FedEx Plane Pull® Challenge got its start in Indiana in 2002 through the inspiration of FedEx Senior Ramp Tower Controller and Special Olympics Indiana volunteer Eric Garrett. After hearing of Special Olympics Virginia's success with its own Plane Pull event, Garrett introduced the idea to Special Olympics Indiana.

About Special Olympics Indiana:

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 21 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 12,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit <http://www.soindiana.org>.

###

**Media Contact:**

Douglas S. Garrison  
Chief Communications Officer  
(317) 232-5780  
[dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov](mailto:dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov)